

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, original claims 1-11 have been replaced with new claims 12-25, which more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regards as their invention. Support for the new claims is found, *inter alia*, in the original claims. Claims 12-23 are believed to read on the elected species of Fig. 1, and claim 12 is believed to be generic to all disclosed species.

The rejections of claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and of claims 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Smith, U.S. 6,106,387, are respectfully traversed.

Smith merely discloses a conditioned air vestibule comprising a plurality of air curtain units arranged in a spaced-apart, parallel relationship to form the vestibule (see e.g., col 3, lines 19-22). Smith does not in any way disclose or suggest an air shutter in a single, vertical plane sectionalized vertically into an upper warm air interception zone and a lower cold air interception zone separated by an intermediate region as claimed by applicants. Nor is there any disclosure or suggestion in Smith of a windless intermediate zone as claimed in claim 13, an air shutter in a single vertical plane sectioned into an upper zone flowing in one horizontal direction and a lower zone flowing in the opposite horizontal direction as claimed in claim 14, an oppositely directed intermediate airstream as claimed in claim 24, or of the specific features of the other dependent claims. Thus, the Smith patent fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

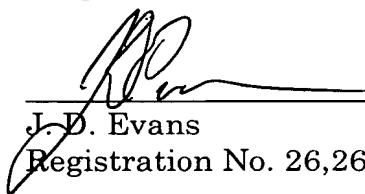
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Application No. 10/733,756  
Reply to Office Action  
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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037297.53060US).

Respectfully submitted,

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